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TF Vector Control (Harvey) Summary September 8, 2017 (9:00 PM CDT)

Current Members:

TX Department of State Health Services
TX Department of Agriculture
ESF 8/Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
FEMA- Emergency Services
FEMA -Public Assistance
FEMA- Environmental Historical Preservation
FEMA External Affairs
FEMA Ops
Department of Defense/910th Airlift Wing
EPA
US Fish and Wildlife

Current Situation:

Texas requested federal support for Vector Control (mosquito). Current requirements have exceeded local and state capabilities. FEMA is coordinating pre-staging requirements for vector control in coordination with Texas Department of State Health Services (TX DSHS). Dr. Whitney Qualls, Medical Entomologist, TX DSHS is the Project Coordinator for vector control.

TX DSHS continues to determine local jurisdiction needs and capacity. Local jurisdictions with current plans and capacity will conduct activities themselves. The remainder of affected counties will be supported by TX DSHS contract with Clarke Mosquito, Inc. (Clarke) and Department of Defense (DoD) aerial assets. TX DSHS continues to receive State of Texas Assistance Requests (STAR) from affected counties for mosquito aerial spray support.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) signed pesticide applicator certification waivers on September 8, 2017 for DoD certified applicators that will be conducting aerial applications during the response and recovery operation.

TX DSHS developed mosquito spray mission maps which include spray tracks, endangered species areas, other areas of concern (Attachment 1). As additional needs are identified through STARs, TXDSHS will coordinate with DoD to update maps.

TX DSHS's contractor, Clarke conducted aerial spray operations for mosquitoes on September 7, 2017 in Aransas, Bee, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio counties. Clarke is scheduled to spray Calhoun, Kleberg, and Jim Wells counties during the evening hours of September 8, 2017.

The advanced party for the 910th Airlift Wing arrived at Kelly Field Annex, San Antonio, Texas on September 8, 2017. The advanced party consisted of one maintenance aircraft and crew. Two modular aerial spray system (MASS) aircraft are scheduled to arrive at approximately 6:40 pm

CDT, September 8, 2017. And, one back-up MASS aircraft will arrive September 9, 2017. Operations will posture with two aircraft spraying each night, with one in reserve. DoD aerial spray operations are scheduled to begin the evening of September 9, 2017 with proposed aerial spraying in Orange, Jefferson, and Chambers counties.

FEMA Emergency Services ordered 800, 30 gallon barrels of Dibrom Concentrate (Naled), EPA Registration Number 5481-480, that is scheduled to be delivered to Kelly Field Annex, San Antonio, Texas before 12:00 pm CDT, September 9, 2017. The EPA stamped product label is attached (Attachment B).

FEMA and DoD are coordinating disposition requirements for empty pesticide containers and unused product (return to producer preferred).

TX DSHS requested FEMA to coordinate with USDA for a rapid response for messaging to Certified Organic Farmers that may be affected by aerial spray operations. TX DSHS is concerned that this unresolved issue will result in some counties electing not to have aerial spray operations conducted.

FEMA external affairs and DoD PIO are coordinating closely with TX DSHS media affairs on messaging for DoD aerial spray mission.

Dr. Whitney Qualls (whitney.qualls@dshs.texas.gov ), TX DSHS, State Coordinator will circulate all public messaging, product data, and processes centrally through the State.

EPA provided TX DSHS and FEMA external affairs with web source links to EPA and CDC publicly available information on Naled and aerial applications on September 8, 2017. Materials were recently updated for Zika response activities (EPA - https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/naled-mosquito-control; CDC - https://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/aerial-spraying.html).

Tasks: None

Next TF Vector Control (Harvey) Teleconference: 4:00pm CDT September 9, 2017